



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Conservation Commission Minutes 03/15/2012

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 March 15, 2012

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Chris Naylor, Curt Connors, David White, Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, Michelle Durocher and Eileen Coleman of the Commission. Also present were Stephen Biagioni, Patrick Maguire, Tim Power, Chris Brown, Ernie Guarino, Ambrose Donovan, Wayne Chouinard, and Dan Shore.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

White/Connors motioned to approve the 3/1 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

The **Walking Book subcommittee** will met again with Adam Kurowski, the Town's GIS coordinator, in April.

Mr. Stevens reported on the **MACC annual conference**, and the topics of vista pruning, and webinar materials for fundamentals.

Mr. Tirone announced a new grant from **DER** for daylighting streams but we need to act fast.

8pm – **Notice of Intent** – 0 Mystic St (behind 24 Summer St), Arlington Catholic athletic field renovation, continued from 3/1

Mr. Maguire distributed additional printed materials to the Commission, responses to questions and reviews of previously submitted items.

The amount of water infiltrating the site will not be substantially different from present conditions, according to the civil engineer, Mr. Power, and the LSP, Mr. Donovan. They said contaminants found in the soils at this site, lead, naphthalene and others, are not easily mobilize into groundwater.

The stormdrain connections will be made directly to the culvert of the Mill Brook, underneath the field, in order to not take up capacity in the drain from Summer St, at the request of the Town Engineer.

The Soils Management plan will include the relocation of the onsite soils to the proposed berms along the edge of the site, and will be immediately covered with sod. This work will only take a matter of days to complete.

Mr. Donovan, the LSP, outlined details of the soils monitoring program. Criteria for soils characterization will include: 1) visual observation, 2) PID meter monitoring, continuously, (placing sample in jar, then measure/test headspace, 3) dust monitoring, with PM meter, 4) signs of staining, 5) using regulatory thresholds to determine what is reused in the berms and what is disposed of offsite.

Mr. Brown explained that a majority of the site will only be excavated to one foot depth. Only the soils excavated from the deeper collector trenches would be excavated from as deep as three feet. The concrete anchors are installed in a trench approximately 1.5 feet deep.

Ms. Garnett added that DEP required her state park projects that 18 inches of clean fill separate any contaminated soil from the exposed surface.

Mr. Naylor asked if the new modeling had a curve number of 90. He said the latest calculations were satisfactory.

Mr. Brown proposed that the soils from the collector trenches could be placed at the bottom of the proposed berms.

Mr. Chouinard asked about the contaminated groundwater at 8 to 12 foot depth. He expressed concern that the infiltration will not be inconsequential, that it possibly should be measured. He also asked how the landfill contamination is classified as potentially reusable.

Mr. Donovan addressed these questions with a description that some infiltration is present in the current layout of the field. If the proposed design were to cap the landfill and propose a barrier to infiltration then the water would have to stored somewhere, and there is no place to store this water. If the landfill were capped, this potentially created problems with gaseous contaminants (such as methane) building up underneath. Some infiltration will continue with the proposed design and this should not increase the chances of mobilization of contaminants from the soils or groundwater.

Mr. Guarino expressed his continued opposition to the proposal based upon his close proximity to the field. He will be the most impacted by an increase in use of the field and he is still concerned about the environmental sensitivity of the materials in the design, will the materials breaks down quickly and need replacing often. He asked how the crumb rubber mat get disposed of.

Mr. Biagioni responded that the school wants a good project with this design and they are not short-changing the use of materials with this. They selected good-quality, long-lasting materials. The owners inherited the historic contamination and they did not create it, but they want to ensure that there is no harm to the public, field users or the environment with this design.

Mr. Donovan added that sometimes a landfill is capped to remove a direct exposure pathway to the contaminated materials.

The proponents will include a landscaping plan that includes removal of invasive species, mowing, and replanting with additional plantings in the Buffer Zone.

The Commission asked the LSP to provide a statement that the infiltration water will not increase the risk of mobilization or migration of the contaminants at this site with the proposed design.

Tirone/Garnett motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tirone and Ms. Beckwith reviewed conditions for the permit:

- the LSP would sign the Soils Management plan
- the soil from the cross-field interceptor trenches would be placed under 18 inches of clean fill in the proposed berms
- the LSP would be onsite during the earthmoving phase of the project
- the soils would be monitored using the PID meter, with a threshold of 10 ppm for removal
- an impervious mat would be installed in the cross-field interceptor trenches
- the planting plan would be revised to include invasive plant removal and control
- a visual barrier (orange snow fence) shall be installed on top of the trench soil under the berms
- before work begins, the Soil Management plan shall be revised to include the protocols discussed at this meeting
- the LSP shall provide a completion or closeout letter to the Commission
- if a new release notification or amended release notification is filed with DEP in relation to the site, the applicant will provide a copy to the Commission
- upon completion of the project, the applicant shall filed with the Commission a signed certification by the LSP, certifying that all soil removal was conducted in accordance with the Soils Management plan submitted and in compliance with the MCP
- only truly clean fill shall be used to cover the proposed berms
- the drainage connections shall be inspected by the Engineering dept, and photos provided to the

Commission

Coleman/Naylor motioned to approve the project as proposed with the above conditions; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business, cont.

The Commission will hold a clean up of **Meadowbrook Park**, on 3/31, 5/5 or 5/19.

Mr. Stevens informed the Commission of the Arlington Redevelopment Board's approval of a temporary sales trailer and associated parking for the new assisted living facility at **Symmes**. It will be located off Summer Street near the eastern boundary of the site. Trees cut for this estimated 9 month use will be replaced. Norway Maples will be replaced with some other species. The temporary restriction will need to be amended. Mr. Stevens alerted the board that they should expect to receive documents to review soon related to amending the interim conservation agreement, the permanent Conservation Restriction and the maintenance plan, all of which need to be changed to reflect changes in the Symmes development since they were executed in August 2004..

The owner of an empty lot on **Reed St** inquired about the jurisdiction of the stream alongside his lot.

Ms. Beckwith forwarded notice of an encroachment on the conservation land at **0 Hemlock**. She will forward the map to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator